

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Sunday School 10/23/22  
Romans Series

WSC #60

Q: How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

A: The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Romans 2:12-29

[12] For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. [13] For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. [14] For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. [15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them [16] on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

[17] But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God [18] and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; [19] and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, [20] an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—[21] you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? [22] You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? [23] You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. [24] For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

[25] For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. [26] So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? [27] Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. [28] For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. [29] But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

Main Idea: God's justice depends on neither knowing nor assenting to the law, but doing the law.

- Verses 12-16
  - Serves as a bridge

**DQ: Did the law exist prior to the giving of the Mosaic law? Defend your answer.**

- The law reflects the character of God
- WSC 14: What is sin? Any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God
- The Mosaic law distinguishes Jews and Gentiles

**DQ: Is it possible that a Gentile could do "by nature what the law requires" and be saved?**

- The standard is the same for all
- Verses 17-24: Practice what you preach
  - The Jews have five privileges
  - Much privilege comes with much responsibility
  - The law does not change the heart

**DQ: In what ways does the accusation of verse 24 hold true of the Christian church today?**

- Verses 25-29: Circumcision is not an end unto itself

**DQ: Why did the Jews find so much reassurance in their circumcision?**

- Circumcision as a sign of the promise
- Circumcision of the heart